Remarks

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the method provides access to resources "for the purpose of updating said resources" and further that access to a desired resource is enabled "to update said resource". Support for these additional recitations may be found in the original specification at such locations as page 3, lines 11-13, which recites that the performer implements a well-defined set of logical operations allowing one to obtain access to the resource, to navigate in the resource data "and to retrieve and update data items in the resource".

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-12 now stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the published U.S. patent application (US 2003/0208473 A1) of Lennon ("Lennon") (paper no. 7 page 2, ¶ 2). As amended, claims 1-12 are believed to distinguish patentably over this reference.

As previously noted, all of the claims under rejection depend, directly or indirectly, on claim 1. As defined in claim 1 as currently amended, applicants' invention relates to a method for providing access to resources (32, 33, 34) for the purpose of updating the resources (page 3, lines 11-13). In accordance with the invention, physical and/or logical parameters required for locating a desired resource are defined, and resource-specific information (e.g., an XML schema) is read from a resource-specifying source (42, 44) specifying a structure containing the resource. Hierarchical control information (10) reflecting the structure is generated using the resource-specific information, and access to the desired resource to update the resource is enabled by calling a resource access performer (30) with at least one of the parameters and evaluating the control information. By handing off the actual resource access to the performer in this manner, the present invention allows a resource to be accessed without modifying or recompiling a user program, even if a resource or attribute has been added or modified.

Lennon describes a method of browsing electronically accessible resources using descriptions of the resources. As described in paragraph [0009] of the reference, the descriptions have descriptor components having attributes representative of at least two axes of access to the resources, as

well as links to the corresponding electronically accessible resources. In accordance with the described method, the descriptions are read and items are displayed, where each item is associated with a corresponding descriptor component of a read description that has at least one such attribute, and the descriptions of the resources and their corresponding electronically accessible resources are browsed via the links using the displayed items.

Lennon's system is thus designed for browsing, searching, locating and annotating electronically accessible resources. It does not relate to a system for updating such resources as claimed by applicants.[1] Accordingly, Lennon neither anticipates nor renders obvious claims 1-12 as amended.

Claim 2 is further believed to distinguish over Lennon by virtue of its recitation of the step of "automatically triggering a semantic evaluation of the contents of a resource desired to be updated when said resource is referenced in calling said resource access performer" (page 6, lines 25-26). As noted in the specification, this allows for consistent updates when there are interdependencies between related data, and is of particular importance when the same resource is shared between a plurality of operating systems or generally when the data is distributed over a plurality of locations in a network (lines 26-29).

The cited paragraph in Lennon, [0116] on page 9, relates to an overview of the Dynamic Description Framework (DDF) and notes how the structure of some resources is inherently hierarchical. However, there is nothing in this paragraph about semantically evaluating the contents of a resource being updated, much less automatically triggering such evaluation when a resource desired to be updated is referenced.
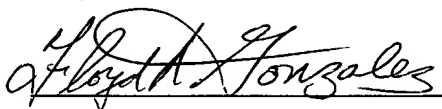
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[1] While Lennon mentions updating at [0252], [0263], [0388] [0449], and [0503], the things being updated are apparently the resource descriptions rather than the resources themselves.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-12 as amended distinguish patentably over the art cited by the Examiner. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the application as amended are respectfully requested. It is hoped that upon such consideration the Examiner will hold all claims allowable and pass the case to issue at an early date. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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